

Tony Campolo
1935 - ?



Liberal American Baptist founder of the **Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education (EAPE)** and former sociology chair at Eastern College. An entertaining clown and speaker for social activism, who **excels in pushing and promoting the "social gospel"**. **Campolo is highly critical of fundamentalism and is an important member of the egalitarian organization Christians for Biblical Equality.** He mixes elements of conservative theology with pantheism and other more liberal concepts.

Books Written By Tony Campolo:

- Adventures in Missing the Point (w/ Brian D. McLaren);
- Everything You Heard Is Wrong;
- Following Jesus Without Embarrassing God;
- Let Me Tell You a Story;
- Speaking My Mind;
- The Survival Guide for Christians;
- 20 Hot Potatoes Christians Are Afraid to Touch;
- Who Switched the Price Tags?.

Tony Campolo the sociologist, is infatuated with charisma, who **thinks Mother Teresa is great saint**, even though she is Hindu in her testimony, and of course this man is a major espouser of the 'social gospel', in fact **he majors in the social gospel**.

He like Jerry Falwell, has taken a soft stand on the sin of sodomy, but not only that, he digs his pit even deeper by stating and **believing that sodomites were born that way...** yes indeed all members of Adams race are born with a sin nature, but infants sure are not born with a spirit of sodomy. Campolo thinks differently of course with all his learning and reprobate reasonings... read on below.

HOMOSEXUALITY

Campolo's Views Challenged

Are people born with a homosexual orientation? Or is such orientation acquired through socialization? In society at large, the debate over homosexuality revolves largely around this issue. And so does a smaller debate on the merits of chapter 9 of sociologist Tony Campolo's book *20 Hot Potatoes Christians Are Afraid to Touch* (Word, 1988).

In the July newsletter of the New York City-based ministry LIFE (Living in Freedom Eternally), which counsels people trying to overcome homosexual orientation, ministry directors Ron and Joanne Highley maintain that Campolo's ideas on homosexuality are unbiblical and harmful. In the four-page newsletter article, they allege that Campolo "has given 'aid and comfort to the enemy' by distorting and avoiding the truth."

Throughout the disputed chapter, Campolo affirms that homosexual behavior is sinful. He states that all were "meant to be heterosexual," but that some are homosexual because "all nature is fallen."

Campolo claims, however, that more and more research "suggests that in a great number of cases, if not in an overwhelming majority, homosexual orientation is inborn."

In challenging this statement, the Highleys wrote that four "gay activists" who appeared on the "Donahue" show earlier this year admitted there is no proof that homosexuality is biologically based.

The implication of Campolo's position on the cause of homosexuality is that counseling to overcome it is useless to many, perhaps most, homosexuals.

In contrast, LIFE, along with several other organizations that make up the umbrella group known as Exodus (see CT, Aug. 18, 1989, p. 16ff.), maintains that nurture—not nature—is responsible for all cases of homosexual orientation. They cite such factors as sexual abuse and a deficit in the relationship

with the same-sex parent, shortcomings they say can be overcome through counseling and prayer.

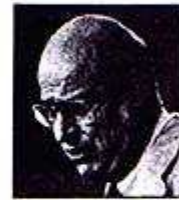
The Highleys applaud Campolo for his "eloquent, much-needed statements about the church's failure to reach out in love, compassion and truth to those caught in this sin." But while acknowledging that there are Christians who struggle with homosexuality, they object to Campolo's use of the term "evangelical homosexual," arguing that people should derive their identities primarily from their Christian faith, and not from their homosexual condition.

In addition, the Highleys' newsletter article faults Campolo's tacit approval of "homosexual covenants," wherein homosexually oriented Christians make a life-long vow to live with each other in celibacy. Campolo views this as a remedy for the loneliness encountered by homosexuals who are in a Christian setting.

"Any erotic/romantic feelings between persons of the same sex indicates a disorder," the Highleys write, "and if we accept it, we are cooperating with the problem and disputing God's design."

In a brief statement responding to the article, Campolo said he agrees with the Highleys "that people can be delivered from homosexuality by the grace of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit." But he said to assume that all homosexuals who seek such deliverance find it "is to set up many for disillusionment and despair."

Campolo said he was saddened by the "vehemence of [the Highleys'] condemnation." He added, "I think I understand a little better why homosexuals remain concealed and suffer in silence."



Tony Campolo

By Randy Frame.

Campolo apologizes for 'intemperate' comments on 'those who differ with me'

by Staff at Baptist Press - July 7, 2003

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Speaker and author Tony Campolo voiced an apology "for the intemperate manner in which I spoke of those who differ with me" on the issues of women in ministry and homosexuality in a July 3 letter to Baptist Press.

Campolo also voiced a clarification of his views on the Israeli-Palestinian crisis and Jesus' Second Coming in his letter, sparked by a Baptist Press report June 27 on his comments to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly the previous day in Charlotte, N.C.

Tony Campolo And The Holy Spirit

December 4, 2004 on Vision TV show broadcast: Campolo continually emphasized in his speech to an audience that **'we must 'LET' the Holy Spirit take control of your life'**. What else is this statement but a revelation of his pelagian leanings. One might ask Mr. Campolo did any sinner as of yet tell or command God the Holy Spirit what He should do?

On women in ministry, Campolo stated in his July 3 letter to Baptist Press:

"I do believe that organizations and social structures that deny women the right to exercise spiritual gifts and actualize their spiritual potentialities are sinful, evil, and even instruments of the devil. I do not, however, believe that the individual people who make up those organizations and who participate in those social structures necessarily have either impure motivations or insincere convictions. While I am convinced that the policies of many institutions are injurious to women, I am equally convinced that the people who form and support those policies mean well."

On homosexuality, Campolo stated:

"Likewise, while I believe that Christians should stand against those who would denigrate homosexuals or deny their legal rights, my understanding of the first chapter of Romans does not allow me to support same-gender eroticism, as some of my critics have suggested. On June 26, as always, I was simply calling on the church of Jesus Christ to show love and understanding to our homosexual brothers and sisters."

Campolo's comments prompted Morris H. Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, to lament Campolo's "characterization as 'evil' and 'sinful' those who take what they believe to be a biblical position on the issue of female pastors."

Campolo apparently would deem as evil "the majority of Christians of all ages who have held to the teaching of the Scripture on this topic," Chapman stated. "Southern Baptists have plainly stated what we believe New Testament teaching on the issue to be. For that, we have no apologies to offer Mr. Campolo."

On homosexuality, Chapman stated that Scripture describes homosexual activity as an abomination to the Lord.

"That is an extremely serious statement, and cute quips cannot substitute for serious thought in dealing with it," Chapman stated. "We do take the injunctions against homosexual behavior seriously, but we also strenuously believe that God shows His mercy and grace to all who repent, and that homosexual persons, like all sinners, are candidates for the forgiveness, grace, and cleansing of the Lord when they turn to Him from their sin. We also deeply believe that we are responsible to treat all others with kindness, and that hatred of anyone is forbidden."

Campolo said he was prompted to write a letter to Baptist Press because, "In fielding responses to your recent article about me, I have become increasingly fearful that my message to the Cooperative

Baptist Fellowship's General Assembly is being misunderstood by people who were not with us there on June 26. In particular, I fear that reports of my message do not make plain the important distinction between structural sin and personal sin."

After his statements on women and ministry and homosexuality, Campolo wrote a paragraph on the Israeli-Palestinian crisis and Jesus' Second Coming, noting:

"Finally, as a biblical, evangelical Christian, I believe that Jesus may return at any moment, that making all of Palestine into an Israeli state with Jerusalem as its capital is not a prerequisite for the Second Coming, and that those who oppose President Bush's roadmap to peace because it includes the establishment of a Palestinian state are needlessly hindering the resolution of the crisis in the Middle East."

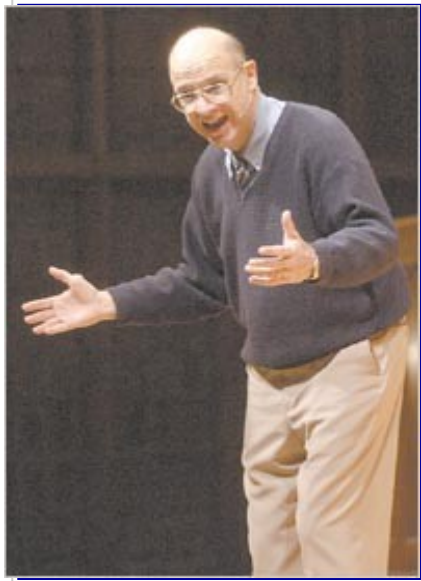
Campolo then concluded his letter by stating, "Nevertheless, I very much want to apologize for the intemperate manner in which I spoke of those who differ with me on these issues. I should have chosen my words more carefully on June 26, and I sincerely ask the forgiveness of those who may have been hurt by my failure to do so."

Tony Campolo States Jesus Christ lives in Buddhists too

On the Charlie Rose show on January 24, 1997, speaking in the context of a Buddhist monk's claim to know Jesus Christ, Campolo says, **"I'm not convinced that Jesus only lives in Christians."** (*HyperScribe LLC, 1535 Grant St., Denver, CO 80203, transcript #1821*).



Tony Campolo speaks to students in Divinity School Dean Bill Leonard's introduction to religion class at Wake Forest Jan. 22 as Leonard looks on. (Photo by Ken Bennett/WFU)



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